

H. B. SAINTE-MARIE.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR AD INTERIM,

RELATIVE TO

A claim of Sainte-Marie for compensation for information furnished in the Surratt case.

DECEMBER 12, 1867.—Referred to the Committee on Claims and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, December 9, 1867.

SIR: I have the honor to send herewith, for the consideration of Congress, the application of H. B. Sainte-Marie, claiming compensation for the information furnished by him which led to the capture of John H. Surratt; together with a report of the board of officers to whom the subject was referred, and the recommendation of the Judge Advocate General in the case.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Secretary of War ad interim.

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MONTREAL, CANADA EAST,
October 11, 1867.

HONORABLE SIR: At the time of the assassination of President Lincoln, your predecessor, Mr. Stanton, offered a reward of \$25,000 for any information that might lead to the capture of J. H. Surratt. Subsequently the order offering such reward was revoked. A year ago, on my information and through the agency of General Rufus King, then minister at Rome, J. H. Surratt was captured and brought to the United States for trial. Much to my astonishment, one of the first things I learned on landing in the United States was, there was no reward for the capture of Surratt. I think General King too much of a gentleman not to have informed me of the revocation of that order if he himself had been aware of its revocation. Surely the government of the United States cannot think that mileage and expenses from Italy here a sufficient remuneration for the dangers I have been and still am exposed to. I have been here now about six months, and it is impossible for me to get anything to do. I am surrounded by numerous enemies, and am liable to suffer at any moment from the

vengeance of Surratt's sympathizers. My name has been thrown to all the world, and there is no place on earth where I can go on my own name. It is not my province to enlarge on the many surmises which the capture of Surratt gave rise to, and the disclosures expected to inculcate even the First Magistrate. Now these things are set at rest, and the public mind is satisfied.

I will thank you from my heart to inform me if you would be disposed to pay that reward, or even part of it, as I am at present depending on my brothers for support, and my position is far from being agreeable.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, general, your very obedient servant,
H'RY B. STE-MARIE.

General U. S. GRANT,

Secretary of War ad interim, Washington, D. C.

P. S.—Any letters addressed C. H. Walters, Cuvillier & Co., Montreal, Canada East, will reach me safely.

WAR DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF MILITARY JUSTICE,

October 25, 1867.

Respectfully returned to the Secretary of War.

In General Order No. 164 of the War Department, of November 24, 1865, it is declared that the reward "offered for the arrest of John H. Surratt" (and others named) is "revoked;" the reference being, as it is understood, to an offer of \$25,000 for the apprehension of this conspirator, published by the Secretary of War on April 20, 1865. But in this same publication, the Secretary of War further proceeds to offer "a liberal reward," to "be paid for any *information* that shall conduce to the arrest of either of the above named criminals" (referring to Booth and others) "*or their accomplices.*"

The general order above mentioned does not revoke or refer to any offer for *information*, and as the government has always held and treated Surratt as one of the *accomplices* of Booth, this offer of April, 1865, should, it is believed, be deemed to have been in force, so far as intelligence in regard to Surratt is concerned, at the date of the information given by the within-named Sainte-Marie to General King. The general order was clearly framed for the purpose of withdrawing the *specific* offer of the large amount named, which amount it was intended the government should be no longer liable to pay. But that it further proposed to withdraw an offer of an amount, as a reward for *information*, which was to be fixed by itself, in its own discretion, cannot, it is thought, fairly be implied. For if this be the inference, it must be assumed that the government no longer desired to secure the capture of Surratt, and had abandoned the pursuit and inquiry instituted in his case; an assumption which, in view of the clear manifestation of his guilt upon the trial of the conspirators, and the judgment of the military commission declaring him to be an accomplice in the assassination, can hardly be entertained.

The information furnished by Sainte-Marie certainly not only "conduced," but *led directly*, to Surratt's arrest, and this party would, therefore, in the opinion of this bureau, properly be regarded as entitled to the "*liberal reward*" indicated in the offer. It is accordingly recommended that such a reward be paid him; and in determining what shall be fixed upon as a "liberal" amount under the circumstances, the statements in the within communication in regard to the long detention of the writer in the United States, and the odium and peril to which he has been and is subject, by reason of his having appeared as a witness upon Surratt's trial, will be proper for consideration.

J. HOLT,

Judge Advocate General.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
November 1, 1867.

Respectfully returned to the Secretary of War.

Henry B. Ste-Marie applies for a reward for information furnished by him which resulted in the capture of J. H. Surratt.

The Judge Advocate General thinks he is not entitled to the \$25,000 reward, but is entitled to a *liberal reward*, and in determining this the long detention of the applicant in the United States, the odium and peril to which he has been and is subject by reason of his having appeared as a witness upon Surratt's trial, will be proper for consideration.

Assistant Adjutant General.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
November 1, 1867.

The Secretary of War refers this to the Adjutant General, Judge Advocate General, and chief of staff of the General of the army, to consider the amount of compensation that should be allowed St. Marie.

By order of the Secretary of War *ad interim* :

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

The board to whom was referred the application of Henry B. Ste-Marie for a reward of his services in the capture of John H. Surratt have the honor to report as follows :

The application of Ste-Marie is submitted in the following letter :

MONTREAL, CANADA EAST,
October 11, 1867.

HONORED SIR : At the time of the assassination of President Lincoln, your predecessor, Mr. Stanton, offered a reward of \$25,000 for any information that might lead to the capture of J. H. Surratt. Subsequently the order offering such reward was revoked. A year ago, on my information, and through the agency of General Rufus King, then minister at Rome, J. H. Surratt was captured and brought to the United States for trial. Much to my astonishment, one of the first things I learned on landing in the United States was, there was no reward for the capture of Surratt. I think General King too much of a gentleman not to have informed me of the revocation of that order if he himself had been aware of its revocation. Surely the government of the United States cannot think that mileage and expenses from Italy here a sufficient remuneration for the dangers I have been and still am exposed to. I have been here now about six months, and it is impossible for me to get anything to do. I am surrounded by numerous enemies, and liable to suffer at any moment from the vengeance of Surratt's sympathizers. My name has been thrown to all the world, and there is no place on earth where I can go on my own name. It is not my province to enlarge upon the many surmises which the capture of Surratt gave rise to, and the disclosures expected to inculcate even the First Magistrate. Now these things are set at rest, and the public mind is satisfied.

